

**Subpart C—Vessel Security Assessment (VSA)**

**§ 104.300 General.**

(a) The Vessel Security Assessment (VSA) is a written document that is based on the collection of background information and the completion and analysis of an on-scene survey.

(b) A single VSA may be performed and applied to more than one vessel to the extent that they share physical characteristics and operations.

(c) Third parties may be used in any aspect of the VSA if they have the appropriate skills and if the Company Security Officer (CSO) reviews and accepts their work.

(d) Those involved in a VSA should be able to draw upon expert assistance in the following areas:

- (1) Knowledge of current security threats and patterns;
- (2) Recognition and detection of dangerous substances and devices;
- (3) Recognition of characteristics and behavioral patterns of persons who are likely to threaten security;
- (4) Techniques used to circumvent security measures;
- (5) Methods used to cause a security incident;
- (6) Effects of dangerous substances and devices on vessel structures and equipment;
- (7) Vessel security requirements;
- (8) Vessel-to-vessel and vessel-to-facility interface business practices;
- (9) Contingency planning, emergency preparedness and response;
- (10) Physical security requirements;
- (11) Radio and telecommunications systems, including computer systems and networks;
- (12) Marine engineering; and
- (13) Vessel and port operations.

**§ 104.305 Vessel Security Assessment (VSA) requirements.**

(a) *Background.* The vessel owner or operator must ensure that the following background information is provided to the person or persons who will conduct the on-scene survey and assessment:

- (1) General layout of the vessel, including the location of:
  - (i) Each actual or potential point of access to the vessel and its function;

(ii) Spaces that should have restricted access;

(iii) Essential maintenance equipment;

(iv) Cargo spaces and storage;

(v) Storage of unaccompanied baggage; and

(vi) Vessel stores;

(2) Threat assessments, including the purpose and methodology of the assessment, for the area or areas in which the vessel operates or at which passengers embark or disembark;

(3) The previous VSA, if any;

(4) Emergency and stand-by equipment available to maintain essential services;

(5) Number of vessel personnel and any existing security duties to which they are assigned;

(6) Existing personnel training requirement practices of the vessel;

(7) Existing security and safety equipment for the protection of personnel, visitors, passengers, and vessels personnel;

(8) Escape and evacuation routes and assembly stations that have to be maintained to ensure the orderly and safe emergency evacuation of the vessel;

(9) Existing agreements with private security companies providing water-side or vessel security services; and

(10) Existing security measures and procedures, including:

- (i) Inspection and control procedures;
- (ii) Identification systems;
- (iii) Surveillance and monitoring equipment;
- (iv) Personnel identification documents;
- (v) Communication systems;
- (vi) Alarms;
- (vii) Lighting;
- (viii) Access control systems; and
- (ix) Other security systems.

(b) *On-scene survey.* The vessel owner or operator must ensure that an on-scene survey of each vessel is conducted. The on-scene survey is to verify or collect information required in paragraph (a) of this section. It consists of an actual survey that examines and evaluates existing vessel protective measures, procedures, and operations for:

- (1) Ensuring performance of all security duties;